

IN THE DRAWINGS

The attached drawing sheet includes changes to FIG. 1. This sheet, which includes FIG. 1, replaces the original sheet including FIG. 1.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in light of the following discussion and the present amendment is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-12 are pending in this application. Claims 1-4, 7, and 8 are amended and Claims 9-12 are added by the present amendment.

Amendments to the claims and the new claims find support in the claims and specification as originally filed. Thus, no new matter is added.

In the Office Action dated December 18, 2008, the drawings were objected to; Claim 2 was objected to; Claims 1, 2, and 6-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Japanese Patent JP 55-135078 to Yoneda (herein "Yoneda"); and Claims 3-5 were indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Initially, Applicant gratefully acknowledges the indication of allowable subject matter in Claims 3-5. Further, Applicant and Applicant's representative gratefully acknowledge the courtesy of a personal interview with Examiner Chan and Supervisory Patent Examiner Benson on January 14, 2009. During the interview, differences between the claimed invention and the disclosure of Yoneda were discussed. Comments and claim amendments discussed during the interview are reiterated below.

Regarding the objection to the drawings, Fig. 1 is amended to show brake device 21, which is supplied power by brake power supply contactor coil 5, for example as discussed in Applicant's specification page 3, line 21 to page 4, line 11. Thus, as discussed during the interview, the drawings show every feature of the invention specified in the claims, without adding new matter. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested the objection to the drawings be withdrawn.

In addition, regarding the objection to the claims, Claims 2 and 4 are amended to replace “opens/closes” with --opens or closes-- as suggested in the Office Action.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested the objection to the claims also be withdrawn.

Moreover, Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of Claims 1, 2, and 6-8 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Yoneda, with respect to amended independent Claims 1 and 7.

Amended Claim 1 is directed to an elevator safety device that includes, in part, a safety circuit including a safety relay main contact for operating a brake device for braking a car, and a bypass relay main contact that is parallel-connected with the safety relay main contact and that opens during a normal operation. Amended Claim 7 is directed to a method of testing an operation of an elevator safety device including steps performing functions similar to the structure of Claim 1, with a different scope of invention.

As discussed during the interview, Yoneda fails to teach or suggest each of the features of the amended independent claims. For example, as discussed during the interview, Yoneda fails to teach or suggest a bypass relay main contact that is parallel-connected with the safety relay main contact and that opens during a normal operation. In particular, Yoneda Fig. 3 shows a relay A that is a safety check relay which is on when safe movement and a lack of problems are confirmed in an emergency stop switch ESTOP, a safety catch switch SCS, an inverse-phase/missing-phase detector relay contact SPT, and an output circuit DR10 driven by a safety check signal SIA from a microcomputer.¹ As discussed during the interview, Yoneda fails to teach or suggest a bypass relay main contact that opens during a normal operation and that is parallel-connected with a safety relay main contact for operating a brake device for braking a car.

¹ Yoneda at page 10, lines 11-16.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent Claims 1 and 7, and claims depending therefrom, patentably define over Yoneda.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 1-12 are allowable.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment this application is believed to be in condition for allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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